(b) if so, whether the SCI paid Rs. 255 crore to Government which will make it completely free of Government loans;

(c) whether with this, the SCI would be able to get 50 of its vessels released from a mortgage to Government; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for privatisation of SCI is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) SCI will be able to get all its vessels released from Government mortgage.

(d) The Government has already decided to privatise SCI.

**Development of National Waterways**

†4173. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Waterways can be developed in the coastal areas of the river Ganges and Brahmaputra and Kerala;

(b) if so, the length upto which these waterways can be developed and the places between which the same can be developed; and

(c) the main commodities and their quantity which are likely to be transported every year through these waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad for a length of 1620 Kms, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya for a length of 891 Kms and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals for a length of 205 Kms. have already been declared as National Waterways and are being developed for shipping and navigation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Some of the commodities, which are likely to be transported through these waterways, are fertilizers and Chemicals, Jute, Coke and Coal, Agriculture produce, Cement etc. The quantities of these items would depend on several factors like demand, cost and the level of infrastructure development.

**Foreign exchange earned by Shipping Industry**

†4174. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange is earned by shipping industry of the country;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earned by this industry during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the total amount invested in this industry during each of the above said years and, out of this, the amount in private and public sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Industry has earned net foreign exchange of Rs. 3534.50 crore during the year 1999-2000 and Rs. 4673.89 crore during 2000-2001. The details of foreign exchange earning for 2001-2002 are being compiled.

(c) As far as Government is concerned, the investment in the Public Sector (through Shipping Corporation of India) during the last three years, for acquisition of tonnage is as under:—

| Year | Amount (Rs. in Crores) |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 161.70 |
| 2000-2001 | 344.66 |
| 2001-2002 | 225.19 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.